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April 12, 2001

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie Salas
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

This message is in support of the FCC Final Report in support of retaining the ITFS spectrum for educational use (Reference ET Docket No. 00-258).

Valencia Community College is located in Orlando, Fl. It consists of four campuses and two centers. The total student population is 25,000 (+).

Valencia operates an ITFS system on the following channels and frequencies:

A1 2538 – 2542 MHz
A2 2524 – 2530 MHz
A3 2512 – 2518 MHz
A4 2500 – 2508 MHz

Transmission signal power is 10 Watts capable of being received up to a radius of 20 miles. Over 70 sites consisting of schools and businesses in Orange and Osceola counties are equipped to receive Valencia Television for educational and training purposes.

The local cable companies, Time Warner Communications and Adelphia Cable, remodulate the signal and transmit to residences in Orange and Osceola counties. Combined, these two cable companies reach over 400,000 households.

The loss of the ITFS spectrum would mean the loss of the following programs and benefits to Orange and Osceola counties:

- The Valencia Telecourse program offers over 30 courses per semester. All courses are college credit courses that count towards satisfying requirements for both the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. Courses are also transferable. Currently, the Telecourse program enrolls over 1,500 students.
- Public school teaches coordinating through the Valencia Teacher Recertification Program, take telecourses to satisfy recertification requirements.

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(Reference ET Docket No. 00-258).

- Local residents, specifically senior citizens, participate in the programs offered for personal enrichment.
- It provides accessibility for the physically disabled that would otherwise have difficulty attending traditional classes.
- Valencia also broadcasts a program titled "The Arts". This program is offered at no charge to local residents for cultural enrichment.
- Valencia Television frequently broadcasts public service announcements that provide beneficial information to the local community.
- Times are scheduled for the bulletin board, which displays information regarding Valencia programs and special events.

Valencia Community College is planning digital conversion of all four ITFS analog channels. As part of this process, Valencia would welcome any proposal by the wireless industry to partnership in the conversion and use of the available bandwidth. However, Valencia will not agree to the loss of current capability or expansion capability that conversion to digital will make available.

Submitted for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Norman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Norman" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Norman
Production Director Television and Video